

Appln. No. 10/677,296

Supplemental Amendment dated April 12, 2006

REMARKS

By the amendment presented above, claims 1, 4-7 and 10-24 are now in the application. On April 7, 2006, Examiner Hwang called applicant's attorney and suggested some amendments to the specification and Abstract which applicant has now made above, as well as amendments to claims 1 and 11.

With regard to claim 1, the examiner indicated that it could be interpreted to read on Fig. 1 of the ancient Donnellan U.S. patent 554,992 which is directed to a skipping rope. The examiner suggested adding at the end of claim 1 that the flattened and twisted elongated connector has a "spiral shape". The examiner also suggested that the elongated connector be recited as having a "longitudinal axis" between the first and then the second end.

As applicant thought that a "spiral shape" possibly might be subject to too narrow an interpretation, applicant (without agreeing that Donnellan is applicable) instead suggested insertion into claim 1 of a clause from claim 11, namely that the rotatable element is "adapted to rotate along a surface upon which the user is standing or hopping", something clearly quite different from anything disclosed in or by Donnellan. The examiner agreed, and claim 1 has been so amended above and therefore it and the claims which depend therefrom (including new claim 24) should be in condition for allowance.

With regard to claim 11, the examiner suggested that it could be interpreted to read on Larson et al USP 3,528,654. While applicant does not necessarily agree, applicant nevertheless agreed to further amend claim 11 to add at its end the clause "wherein said elongated connector is a flattened and twisted element". This amendment has been made

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above, and therefore claim 11 and the claims which depend therefrom should now be in condition for formal allowance.

In the first Office Action, claim 5 was indicated to be free of the prior art. Claim 5 has now been rewritten in independent form with all the features of claim 5 as originally presented and found allowable. Accordingly, claims 5 and 6 should be in condition for formal allowance.

All of the previously pending claims have now been addressed above in a manner which should place them in condition for formal allowance, as discussed with the examiner on April 10, 2006, and this brings us to new claims 19-21.

Claim 19, discussed with the examiner on April 12, 2006, is exactly the same as claim 1 as amended on March 13, 2006, with a first clause added at the end from previously pending claim 18, the latter of which was added in the Reply of March 13, 2006; and a second clause more specifically defining the ring. New claim 19 thus recites everything that was in claim 1 prior to the current amendment plus the feature from claim 18 that the rotatable element is connected to the rotatable connector so that the rotatable element rotates with the rotatable connector. This is clearly not the situation with respect to the skipping rope of Donnellan which was mentioned as being problematic with respect to claim 1 as previously amended. New claim 19 specifies that the "ring" is of a generally circular configuration and is adapted to rotate about the lower leg or ankle of the user, features clearly not possessed by the Donnellan skipping rope.

Accordingly, new claim 19 in independent form and claims 20-23 which depend therefrom should be allowable over any known prior art. Such is respectfully requested.

Lastly, applicant wishes to thank the examiner for his courtesies during the aforementioned telephone interviews.

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Favorable consideration and early formal allowance
are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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